

## Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CPR-01 OES-03

NASA-01 /057 W

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P 061237Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORIT 924

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7822

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,UR

SUBJECT: FORD/BREZHNEV ASTP MESSAGES

STATE FOR UER/SOV

USIA FOR IEE

REF: MOSCOW 7723

1. IN THE LIGHT OF OUR EXPERIENCE WITH U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE VE DAY CEREMONIES (REFTEL), EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT A STONG EFFORT BE MADE TO WIN SOVIET AGREEMENT TO A HIGH-LEVEL U.S. MESSAGE ON PRIME-TIME SOVIET TELEVISION DURING ASTP. THE IDEA WOULD BE TO USE THE ASTP LAUNCH AS A WAY OF BRINGING TO A MASS SOVIET AUDIENCE AN AUTHORITATIVE U.S. STATEMENT ON OVERALL U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION.

2. PROBABLY THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS WOULD BE THROUGH AN EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV ON NATIONWIDE TELEVISION IN BOTH COUNTRIES DURING ASTP. OPTIMALLY, THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SHOULD BE UP TO 10 MINUTES LONG AND SHOULD TREAT ALL MAJOR ELEMENTS OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS AS WELL AS ASTP ITSELF AND ITS ROLE WITHIN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BILATERAL S&T COOPERATION.

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3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT NASA APPROVAL AND U.S. NETWORK INTEREST ARE MAJOR FACTORS IN DETERMINING WHETHER THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAKE THIS PROPOSAL TO THE SOVIETS. THE GREAT ADVANTAGE, AS WE SEE IT FROM HERE, IS THAT IT GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSMIT A UNILATERAL AND UNDILUTED TOP-LEVEL STATEMENT OF U.S. POLICY TO A LARGE SOVIET AUDIENCE WHICH--AS SHOWN BY OUR DIFFICULTY IN GETTING ADEQUATE TELEVISION COVERAGE DURING THE VE DAY CELEBRATION--IS VERY DIFFICULT TO REACH. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON OUR RECOMMENDATION THAT WE APPROACH THE SOVIETS WITH SUCH A PROPOSAL.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT INTERKOSMOS HAS PROPOSED TO NASA THAT AN EXCHANGE OF GREETINGS BE BEAMED DOWN FROM THE CAPSULES TO THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES DURING THE ASTP. WE FAVOR SUCH AN EXCHANGE, BUT PROPOSE THAT TACTICALLY IT BE RELATED TO THE IDEA OF AN EXCHANGE OF PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES, WHICH WE SEE AS OF MUCH GREATER VALUE FROM THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW.  
STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WORLD WAR II, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, TELEVISION BROADCASTING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Reference:** 75 MOSCOW 7723  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 11 JUN 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** FORD/BREZHNEV ASTP MESSAGES STATE FOR UER/SOV  
**TAGS:** PFOR, UR, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006